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Commonwealth of Virginia

RESPONSE TO PETITION FOR RULEMAKING

Check one: ☐ Initial Agency Notice ☒ Agency Decision

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Agency Name: Board of Dentistry, Department of Health Professions

Chapters affected:

VAC No. <i>(e.g., 4 VAC 20-490):</i>	Chapter Name <i>(e.g., Regulations Pertaining to Sharks):</i>
18 VAC 60-20	Regulations Governing the Practice of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene

Statutory Authority: 54.1-2400 and 54.1-2724 of the Code of Virginia

Name of petitioner: James W. Jelinek, DDS

Nature of petitioner's request: To amend section 200 which establishes that two dental hygienists may work under the supervision of a licensed dentist at any one time. The petitioner request that the ratio be changed to three hygienists for each dentist since the current ratio limits his practice and ability to provide hygiene services to his patients.

INITIAL AGENCY NOTICE

Agency's plan for disposition of the request: The Board will consider the petition for rule-making at its meeting on September 12, 2003.

Comments may be submitted until August 5, 2003

AGENCY DECISION

☐ Request Granted

☒ Request Denied

Statement of reasons for decision: The Board received four written comments on the petition, all of which were opposed to changing the ratio. At this time, the Board believes that such a change would exacerbate the problem of too few hygienists in underserved areas of the state. Data is inadequate to determine the potential effect of a change in the ratio, so the Board has agreed to begin collecting workforce data. The Board will continue to engage in study and dialogue on the issue.

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